

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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MAR 21 1967

TO : ACEP Chairman

FROM : Anthony M. Solomon, State Member *ad*

SUBJECT: U.S. Exports to French Nuclear Weapons Laboratories

On December 14 I proposed and ACEP agreed, subject to Commissioner Johnson getting the concurrence of the other AEC Commissioners, that the U.S. should attempt to obtain French Government assurances that non-advanced computers ordered by French nuclear weapons laboratories would be used only for non-nuclear weapons purposes. The case before us involved a LINC-8 computer. On January 28, our Embassy in Paris said such assurances would be repugnant to the French concept of sovereignty and a U.S. request for them might re-open within the French Government the Fowler-Debre agreement on assurances for advanced computers (Paris 11339). State has reviewed the matter, taking into consideration the status of the French nuclear program, the Limited Test Ban Treaty, NSAM 294, availability from non-U.S. sources, and the willingness of other governments to license exports to France.

I now recommend that LINC-8 computers, plus other non-advanced equipment we believe third countries are willing to export to France, be licensed without assurances for export to any French consignee.

State Dept. review completed

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